

CONFERENCES

OUSD(AT&L) Sponsors 2003 Business Managers' Conference

The Business Managers' Conference, sponsored by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (OUSD(AT&L)) in cooperation with the Business, Cost Estimating, and Financial Management Functional Advisory Board, will take place May 14-15, 2003, at Fort Belvoir, VA. The conference theme is "Changes and Challenges."

This yearly event brings together senior DOD acquisition and comptroller executives as well as Service headquarters business staff and Program Executive Office (PEO), Program Manager (PM), and Systems and Materiel Command business managers for wide-ranging discussions and presentations on current acquisition and business initiatives.

The target audiences for the conference are:

- DOD business, cost estimating, and financial management acquisition workforce community;
- Office of the Secretary of Defense comptroller and Program Analysis and Evaluation staff;
- Headquarters financial management staff;
- PEO/PM staff;
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service;
- Defense Contract Management Agency;
- The contracting community; and
- The industry and business communities.

Visit the ASC home page at <http://asc.rdaisa.army.mil> for additional information.

51st Defense Working Group On NDT

The 51st Defense Working Group (DWG) on Non-destructive Testing (NDT) will be held Nov. 4-6, 2003, in Fort Walton Beach, FL. The U.S. Air Force's 361st Training Squadron/Detachment 2, will host this year's meeting.

Attendance is restricted and tightly controlled, with the focus on information exchange and problem solving. This annual meeting of engineers, scientists, and technicians, provides the only forum for military, Defense Logistics Agency, and Defense Contract Management Agency representatives to freely exchange information related to NDT methods, equipment, and applications.

Because of declining resources for maintenance, repair, and acquisition of new systems, it is imperative that DOD maximize the useful life of present assets

while developing economical maintenance strategies. NDT plays a significant role in this process by providing quantitative and qualitative input on the characteristics of systems and components during all phases of life-cycle management. This ability to test and inspect without destroying or degrading equipment ensures the highest standards of personnel safety while providing the most inexpensive method available to assess useful life and readiness of current assets.

Additional information on the 51st DWG meeting is available at <http://hometown.aol.com/dodndt>.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Thank you for a fine magazine that keeps us abreast of the latest and greatest. I would like you to know, however, that I was stunned when I saw the cover of the November-December 2002 issue in my mailbox.

On the cover, there is a picture of two people sitting on the hood of a HMMWV. This is a big no-no. HMMWV hoods are marked "No Step" for a reason. As someone who has tested and been around HMMWVs for more than 10 years, I must stress that walking and sitting on a HMMWV hood can damage it. That's why it states "No Step."

I, and others, know that people walk on HMMWV hoods all the time, but the practice is unacceptable. The fact that you published a picture with not one, but two people on the hood, only reinforces this behavior.

I would ask that in the future, you refrain from showing pictures like this.

By the way, I just finished a test for a small Marine Corps vehicle. I found it very interesting that the Marine Corps specified in the vehicle's purchase description that the vehicle's hood had to withstand, without damage, a 95th percentile Marine (large male) walking on it. I have never seen a requirement like that in an Army purchase description.

Thanks for letting me vent my spleen on a pet peeve of mine, but HMMWV hoods cost too much to replace or fix.

Sincerely,

Brian E. Frymiare
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